

SHOOTING OF LINCOLN AS STATE PAPER TOLD IT

The following newspaper story on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln appeared in the Lansing State Journal. It is interesting, both from the historical point of view and also to show the contrast in the manner of presenting news from that of today.

First Dispatch
WASHINGTON, April 15—12:30 A. M.—The President was shot in a theatre to-night, and is perhaps mortally wounded.

Second Dispatch
WASHINGTON, April 15.—Lincoln and wife, with other friends, visited Ford's Theatre this evening for the purpose of witnessing the performance of the "American Cousin." It was announced in the papers that Gen. Grant would also be present, but that gentleman took the late train of cars for New Jersey.

Theatre was densely crowded, and everybody seemed delighted with the scene before them. During the third act, and while there

was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report attracted attention, but suggested nothing serious until a man rushed to the President's box, waving a long dagger in his right hand, and exclaiming "Sic semper tyranni." An immediate cry leaped from the box, which was in the second tier, to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side of the stage, making his escape, amid the bewilderment of the audience, from the rear of the theatre, and mounting a horse.

The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President was shot, when all present rose to their feet and pushed toward the stage, many exclaiming "Hang him!"

The excitement was of the wildest possible description—and of course there was an abrupt termination of the theatrical performance. There was a rush toward the President's box, when cries were heard, "stand back and give him air!" "has any one struck him?" On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the chest, and back of the temporal bone, and that some of the brain was coming out. He was removed to a private house, opposite the theatre, and the Surgeon General of the army and other surgeons present for attend to his condition.

On an examination of the private box, blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned rocking chair on which the President had been sitting; also on the carpet.

A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed. An immense crowd was in front of it, all deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise.

The shock to the community was terrible. At midnight, the Cabinet, Messrs. Sumner, Beyer and Farnsworth, Judges Bates, Gov. Oglesby, Gen. Meigs, Gen. Hays and a few personal friends, with Surg. Gen. Burns and his immediate assistants, were around his bedside. The President was in a state of syncope, totally insensible and breathing slowly—the blood oozed from the wound at the back of his head. The Surgeon extenuated every possible effort of medical skill, but all hope was gone.

The parting of his family with the dying President is too sad for description. The President and Mrs. Lincoln did not start for the theatre until 8:15. Speaker Colfax was at the White House; at 8:30 that he was going, although Mrs. Lincoln had not been well, because the papers had announced

presented at the meeting to be held this afternoon; pursuant to the call of the Mayor.

PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR

Whereas, The said intelligence has been received by telegraph this morning of the assassination and death of President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary Seward; and whereas, This unfortunate calamity is one which saddens every heart, and has filled the nation with sorrow and mourning, and calls upon every citizen to manifest his feelings in some appropriate manner;

Therefore, I, Ira H. Bartholomew, Mayor, do hereby call upon all the business men of this city, to close their places of business, and the people generally to abstain from their usual avocations,

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Among these bits of more or less useless information which we find interesting for the moment is one to the effect that Americans spent \$300,000 for Santa Claus wiskers last December. Quite a sum to blow in for something which the kids don't believe in any more.



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that Gen. Grant was to be present, and as Gen. Grant had gone north, he did not wish the audience to be disappointed. He went with apparent reluctance, and urged Mr. Colfax to go with him. Secretary Seward had made many other engagements with Mr. Ashmun, of Massachusetts, and had been obliged to decline.

When the excitement at the theatre was at its highest, reports were circulated that Secretary Seward had also been assassinated. On reaching this gentleman's residence a crowd and a military guard were around the door, and on entering it was ascertained that the reports were unfounded, and that everybody there were so excited that scarcely an intelligible word could be gathered; but the facts are substantially as follows: About 10 o'clock a man rang the bell, and the call having been answered by a colored servant. He said he had come from Dr. V. Secretary Seward's family physician with a prescription, at the same time holding in his hand a small piece of colored paper, and saying in answer to a refusal, that he must see the Secretary, as concerning the medicine. He still insisted on going up, although repeatedly informed that no one could enter the chamber. He pushed the servant aside and walked hastily towards the Secretary's room and was there met by Fred Seward, of whom he demanded to see the Secretary, making the same representation which he did to the servant. What further passed in the way of colloquy is not known, but the man struck him on the head with a billy, severely injuring the skull and felling him almost senseless. The assassin then rushed into the chamber, and attacked Mr. Seward, paymaster of the U. S. A., and Mr. Huntell, a messenger of the State Department, and two male nurses, disabling them. He then rushed upon the Secretary, who was lying in the same room, and inflicted three stabs in the neck, but severing it is thought he hoped, no arteries, though he bled profusely. The assassin then rushed down stairs, mounted his horse at the rear, and made off before an alarm could be given, and in the same manner as the assassin of the President.

It is believed that the injuries of the Secretary are very seriously injured.

Secretaries Stanton and Wells, and other prominent officers of the Government called at Secretary Seward's house to inquire into his condition, and then heard of the assassination of the President. They then proceeded to the house where he was lying, exhibiting, of course, intense anxiety and solicitude. An immense crowd was gathered in front of the President's house, and a strong guard was also stationed there, many persons evidently supposing he would be brought home.

The entire city to-night presents a scene of wild excitement, accompanied by violent expressions of indignation and the deepest sorrow; many shed tears. The military authorities have dispatched mounted patrols in every direction, in order, if possible, to arrest the assassin. The whole Metropolitan Police are likewise vigilant for the same purpose.

The attack both at the theatre and at Secretary Seward's house, took place about the same hour, 10 o'clock—thus showing a premeditated plan to assassinate those gentlemen. Some evidence of guilt of the parties who attacked the President, are in the possession of the board of police.

Vice-President Johnson is in the city, and his headquarters are guarded by troops.

Ten O'Clock Report
Sherman's army moved from Goldsboro on the 9th in three columns.

Official bulletin, 4:10 a. m., say, the President continues insensible and is sinking.

Secretary Seward remains without change.

Fred Seward's skull is fractured in three places besides a severe cut on the head.

The assassin of the President is one Wilkes Booth. His companion's name is unknown; but his description is so clear that he can hardly escape. One of them has probably made his way to Baltimore. The other has not been traced.

Another bulletin from Secretary Stanton says: The President breathed his last at 22 minutes past 7 o'clock this morning.

Third Dispatch
Secretary Seward died at 9:47 A. M.

Booth, the assassin, is arrested. It is J. Wilkes Booth, the actor.

CITIZENS' MEETING
At an impromptu meeting of the citizens held this morning on the receipt of the intelligence of the assassination and death of President Lincoln, it was resolved:

1st. That 1,000 copies of the dispatches concerning the intelligence, be printed for general distribution;

2d. That the Mayor be requested to call a meeting of the citizens at 3 o'clock P. M. at the State House, and that he also request a general suspension of business during the day;

3d. That the bells of the several churches and schools in the city be tolled for two hours.

A committee of five consisting of Messrs. W. H. Chapman, S. D. Bingham, D. C. Leach, G. W. Peck and M. P. Kilbourn, was appointed to draft a series of resolutions expressive of the sense of this community on this dire calamity, to be

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